



**PATENT APPLICATION**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|            |   |                                 |                           |
|------------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Applicant  | : | Marco CAERAN                    | )                         |
| Appln. No. | : | 09/537,176                      | ) Group Art Unit 3728     |
| Filed      | : | March 29, 2000                  | ) Examiner Jila Mohandesi |
| For        | : | SPORTS BOOT WITH FLEXIBLE FRAME | )                         |

**REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**  
**TO THE OFFICE ACTION OF APRIL 5, 2002**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In reply to the Office action dated April 5, 2002, please enter the following amendment.

Upon entry of the amendment, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

**AMENDMENT**

**In the Claims**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

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1. (Three Times Amended) A sports boot, especially for gliding sports, comprising:
- an outer sole and an external upper covering a user's foot and lower leg, the external upper comprising a flexible frame made of a flexible, substantially non-stretchable material, arranged along determinate directions of forces transmitted during use of the boot, said